

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 /089 W

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P R 251001Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7302

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PSOE WALKS OUT OF PLATAJUNTA MEETING

REF: MADRID 6814

SUMMARY: THE PSOE'S WALK-OUT FROM LAST NIGHT'S PLATAJUNTA MEETING TESTIFIES TO GROWING INTRAMURAL TENSIONS, BUT ANY SPECULATION AS TO THE COALITION'S IMMINENT DEMISE WOULD APPEAR TO BE PREMATURE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PSOE'S ENRIQUE MUGICA, ACCOMPANIED BY THE UGT

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REPRESENTATIVE, WALKED OUT OF SEPTEMBER 23'S MEETING OF

THE OPPOSITION PLATAJUNTA'S 14-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. MUGICA DEPARTED IN PROTEST OVER THE ELECTION OF PLATAJUNTA "INDEPENDENT" ANTONIO GARCIA TREVIJANO TO BE ONE OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES (THE OTHER IS THE PCE'S SIMON SANCHEZ MONTERO) TO THE SEPT 28 MEETING IN VALENCIA OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE SEPT 4 MADRID OPPOSITION "SUMMIT" (REFTEL). WHEN THE VOTES WERE COUNTED, THE PSOE FOUND ITSELF IN THIRD PLACE, APPARENTLY AS THE RESULT OF CONCERTED EXTREME LEFT SUPPORT FOR GARCIA TREVIJANO AND A SPLITTING OF THE NON-COMMUNIST VOTE BETWEEN MUGICA AND OTHERS. AND GARCIA TREVIJANO REPORTEDLY PROCEEDED TO CLAIM MUGICA WAS ACTING AT VARIANCE WITH THE PSOE'S POLICIES, ADDING TO THE PSOE'S ANGER.

2. LAST NIGHT'S TIFF HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR SOME TIME. THE PLATAJUNTA'S PRONOUNCED LIST TO PORT--FIVE OF THE FOURTEEN MEMBERS (PCE, WORKERS COMMISSIONS, PTE, ORT, AND MC) ARE TO THE LEFT OF THE PSOE AND TWO (CARLISTS, "INDEPENDENTS") ARE LEFTIST OPPORTUNISTS--MAKES MOST MEETINGS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RATHER TRYING, AT BEST, FOR THE COALITION'S SOCIALIST (PSOE AND PSP) AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS. THIS PARTICULAR CASE WAS EVEN MORE GRATING THAN USUAL FOR THE PSOE, BECAUSE IT VIEWS ITSELF AND THE PCE, IN THAT ORDER, AS THE TWO MAJOR GROUPS WITHIN THE PLATAJUNTA, AND IT HAS NOT INTENTION OF PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE TO THE COMMUNISTS, MUCH LESS GARCIA TREVIJANO.

3. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE NON-EXTREMIST PLATAJUNTA MEMBERS, GARCIA TREVIJANO HAS BEEN AN APPLE OF DISCORD EVER SINCE THE COALITION WAS FORMED. HE IS A POLITICAL OPPORTUNIST WHO REPRESENTS NO ONE BUT HIMSELF, A MAN OF HIGHLY DUBIOUS CHARACTER REPUTEDLY INVOLVED IN CONSIDERABLE SHADY DEALING AS THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE IN MADRID OF THE CONTROVERSIAL GOVT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA. MUGICA MADE IMPLICIT REFERENCE TO GARCIA TREVIJANO'S REPUTATION WHEN HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THE LATTER COULD NEVER REPRESENT THE PSOE, NOT BECAUSE OF POLITICAL MOTIVES, BUT FOR "OTHER REASONS."  
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4. IN RECENT DAYS, GARCIA TREVIJANO HAS SUCCEEDED IN POISONING ALREADY BAD RELATIONS BY ACCUSING THE PSOE, POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP), AND RUIZ GIMENEZ' "IZQUIERDA DEMOCRATICA" (ID) OF DUPLICITY--BEING "TOUGH" ON THE GOVT WITHIN THE PLATAJUNTA BUT BEING "SOFT" IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS AND DEALINGS. THE PSOE COUNTERATTACKED WITH A SHARP PUBLIC STATEMENT ACCUSING

GARCIA TREVIJANO OF "CALUMNIOUS DEFAMATION" AND QUESTIONING HIS POLITICAL AND MORAL STANDING.

5. COMMENT: THIS GARCIA TREVIJANO "AFFAIR," ALTHOUGH IT POSSESSES AN OBVIOUS MORAL DIMENSION, IS FUNDAMENTALLY A MANIFESTATION OF THE FACT THAT THE PROSPECT OF MEANINGFUL ELECTIONS BY JUNE IS EXACERBATING ALWAYS PRESENT INTERNAL PLATAJUNTA DIFFERENCES. THE PSOE, PSP, AND ID, WHICH BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM THE ELECTORAL PROCESS TO WHICH THE GOVT HAS COMMITTED ITSELF, SEE SUBSTANTIAL GOVT-OPPOSITION COMMON GROUND. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PCE, WHICH APPARENTLY WILL BE EXCLUDED, AT LEAST FORM RUNNING UNDER ITS OWN BANNER, HAS LITTLE TO GAIN FROM THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS AS PLANNED; THE FAR LEFT MINI-GROUPS AND POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CONSTITUENCY HAVE MUCH TO LOSE.

6. AT A MINIMUM, THIS IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO MEAN SHARPENED TENSIONS WITHIN THE PLATAJUNTA. ID SEC GEN JAIME CORTEZO TOLD US THAT THERE STILL ARE GOOD REASONS FOR HOLDING THE COALITION TOGETHER AND IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON A SPLIT BETWEEN "PRO-ELECTION" MEMBERS AND "ANTI-ELECTION" GROUPS. (THE PSOE AND UGT, IN MAKING CLEAR THEIR DISPLEASURE, HAVE INDICATED THEY DO NOT CONTEMPLATE BREAKING UP THE PLATAJUNTA.) CORTEZO ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PSOE, PSP, AND ID ARE QUITE CONCERNED OVER THIS BASIC DIVERGENCE OF INTEREST. THEY SENT TO LAST NIGHT'S PLATAJUNTA SESSION SECOND-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR DISPLEASURE. STABLER

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